



United States Attorney's Office
District of Columbia

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PRESS RELEASE

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D.C. FIREFIGHTER CONVICTED OF ASSAULTING A DEFENSELESS PATIENT

WASHINGTON – Vincent Kyle, a 40-year-old D.C. firefighter, was found guilty of assaulting a patient under his care, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen announced today. Kyle was found guilty by D.C. Superior Court Judge Bruce D. Beaudin of Simple Assault on Monday, June 7, 2010. The defendant faces a sentence of up to 180 days in jail when he is sentenced on June 23, 2010.

According to the government's evidence at trial, on June 8, 2009, the District of Columbia Fire and Emergency Medical Services Agency (DCFEMS) received a call to transport a patient who had apparently passed out after ingesting an unknown amount of PCP. While the patient was being transported to the hospital, he became unruly and disrobed in the ambulance. The patient then briefly took control of the ambulance before he was removed from the ambulance and was restrained by DCFEMS personnel, including the defendant, in the 4300 block Hayes St., N.E.

Members of the Metropolitan Police Department responded to assist DCFEMS personnel with the unruly patient. Police officers took control of the patient, and placed handcuffs on his hands and feet to control him. Officers then monitored the patient as they waited for another ambulance to arrive.

While the patient lay on the ground, with his hands and feet bound, and covered only by a sheet, the defendant approached the patient, accused the patient of spitting on him, and then used his knee and fist to strike the patient in the head area. MPD officers intervened immediately to stop the assault. The patient did not suffer any severe injuries.

In announcing the verdict, U.S. Attorney Machen praised the work of MPD Sergeant Keith Hoffman, who investigated the matter, and commended MPD Officers Bridget Cummiskey and Kurt Hansen who halted the defendant's assault on the patient and promptly reported the assault. He also acknowledged the outstanding efforts of Assistant U.S. Attorney Sean M. Lewis, who investigated and tried the case.

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